

NOTE: If you own a 1985 or later model, first check the Supplement at the back of the book for any new service information.

CHAPTER THREE

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LUBRICATION, MAINTENANCE AND TUNE-UP

If this is your first experience with an ATC or motorcycle, you should become acquainted with products that are available in auto or motorcycle parts and supply stores. Look into the tune-up tools and parts and check out the different lubricants such as motor oil, locking compounds and greases. Also check engine degreasers, such as Gunk or Bel-Ray Degreaser, for cleaning your engine prior to working on it.

The more you get involved in your ATC the more you will want to work on it. Start out by doing simple tune-up, lubrication and maintenance. Tackle more involved jobs as you gain experience.

The Honda ATC is a relatively simple machine but to gain the utmost in safety, performance and useful life from it, it is necessary to make periodic inspections and adjustments. It frequently happens that minor problems are found during such inspections that are simple and inexpensive to correct at the time, but which could lead to major problems if not corrected.

This chapter explains lubrication, maintenance and tune-up procedures. **Table 1** is a suggested factory maintenance schedule. **Tables 1-5** are located at the end of this chapter.

DAILY CHECKS

The following checks should be performed prior to the first ride of the day.

1. Inspect all fuel lines and fittings for wetness.
2. Make sure the fuel tank is full of fresh gasoline.

3. Make sure the engine oil level is correct.
4. Check the operation of the clutch and adjust if necessary.
5. Check the throttle and the brake lever(s). Make sure they operate properly with no binding.
6. Make sure the engine stop switch works properly.
7. Inspect the front and rear suspension; make sure it has a good solid feel with no looseness.
8. Check the drive chain for wear and correct tension.
9. Check tire pressure or circumference measurement. Refer to **Table 2**.
10. Check the exhaust system for damage.
11. Check the tightness of all fasteners, especially engine mounting hardware.

SERVICE INTERVALS

The services and intervals shown in **Table 1** are recommended by the factory. Strict adherence to these recommendations will ensure long service from your Honda ATC. However, if the vehicle is run in an area of high humidity the lubrication and services must be done more frequently to prevent possible rust damage. This is especially true if you have run the ATC through water (especially salt water).

For convenience when maintaining your vehicle, most of the services shown in **Table 1** are described in this chapter. However, some procedures which require more than minor disassembly or adjustment are covered elsewhere in the appropriate chapter.

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